Province of
British Columbia

B.C. Police Commission Annual Report 1982/83

Crime Trends in British Columbia

●

Complaints

●

Police Academy

●

Progress Report From the Commission

British Columbia Cataloguing in Publication Data

British Columbia Police Commission.
Annual report. — 1980; 1981/82–

Report year ends Mar. 31, 1981/82–
Report for 1981/82 covers Jan. 1, 1981 to Mar. 31, 1982.
Continues: British Columbia Police Commission.
Bulletin. ISSN 0380–1063
ISSN 0710–6599 = Annual report — British Columbia Police Commission.

1. British Columbia Police Commission — Periodicals.
2. Police — British Columbia — Periodicals.

HV7642.B7B74 354.711'0074

The Honourable Robert Gordon Rogers,
Lieutenant Governor of the Province of British Columbia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The Annual Report of the British Columbia Police Commission for the period April 1, 1982 to March 31, 1983 is respectfully submitted.

BRIAN R.D. SMITH
Attorney General

Office of Attorney General
September 1983

The Honourable Brian R.D. Smith, Q.C.
Attorney General of British Columbia
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C.

DEAR MR. SMITH:

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report of the British Columbia Police Commission for the fiscal year 1982/1983 pursuant to the provisions of Section 10 of the Police Act, S.B.C. 1974, chapter 64.

Yours truly,

MALCOLM A. MATHESON

Chairman
British Columbia
Police Commission

September 1983

(604) 668-2385

BRITISH COLUMBIA POLICE COMMISSION
1550 - 409 GRANVILLE ST. VANCOUVER, B. C. V6C 1T2

1982/83 ANNUAL REPORT
BULLETIN NUMBER TEN

SEPTEMBER 1983

CONTENTS

	Page
Chairman's Message	1
Introduction - Role of the Commission	4
B.C. Police Academy	5
Crime Statistics	8
Police Costs and Strength in British Columbia	14
Crime Prevention	17
Traffic	18
Citizen Complaints	19
Other B.C. Police Commission Activities	26
Financial Statement for Fiscal Year 1982/83	33
Organizational Chart	34
B.C. Municipal Crime Trend Comparisons	Appendix

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Crime in B.C.

Again this year the Uniform Crime Reports show an increase in crime. For 1982 this amounted to an 8.7 percent increase for all types of criminal code offences (excluding drug and traffic offences). Although this increase by itself appears reasonable considering the growth of our population, it is in fact an addition of 30,384 criminal code offences.

To provide some perspective on the crime load this represents it should be noted that it exceeds the entire amount of such crime reported by the five municipal police forces in the Greater Victoria region (which had 23,174 offences for 1982). The region's police strength was 325 for the same year.

Using Vancouver as another major population centre in the province the 30,384 crimes equal 43.7 percent or approaching half of the crime reported in that city. With a police force of 973 this crime load would require proportionately 425 of their members.

It is apparent, therefore, that if crime in our province continues to grow at this rate it will demand an increase in our police strength per year of between 300 to 400 members if present crime case loads per member are to be maintained. Experience over the past six years however, has been that police strength increased less than half the crime rate, 14.6 percent versus 39.2 percent, generating a substantial growth in the crime case load per police officer.

Experience over the same 6 years also indicates that not only is our population increasing but also the crime rate per 1000 population, rising from 106.1 to 136 in 1982.

According to Statistics Canada figures, B.C. has for years led all other provinces in its per capita crime rate and all indications are that this is likely to continue for the indefinite future. Two major demographic factors contribute to this situation. One is the fact that B.C. has a relatively young population. Estimates for 1980 are that 40.7 percent of the population was less than 25 years old, i.e. concentrated in the highest crime risk age categories.

The second demographic factor is that we have a relatively fast population growth rate which Statistics Canada figures have shown is the result of substantial net immigration from other provinces. Again, the in-migrants tend to be younger and thereby contribute even further to the proportion of our population in the highest crime risk categories.

To deal with this continued growth in crime, it is imperative now that the facts of our crime situation in B.C. be defined precisely and

the development of highly focused crime prevention and crime containment strategies be given the highest priority. Such a plan for research and development in police services and the criminal justice system must be capable of dealing successfully with such issues as: our 30.6 percent increase in robberies and an almost doubling in the use of firearms during these robberies; the unenviable position we have of the highest drug offence province; and with the number of career criminals who continue to victimize and have made a profession of crime.

The Commission in the coming year will focus on these issues recognizing the increasing rates of change in our population, and the nature of crime, bring with them a greater need for co-ordinated strategies.

B.C. Police Commission

Mr. G.L. Dalton retired at the end of 1982 as Acting Chairman. Dr. M.A. Matheson was appointed as chairman in October, 1982. Due to budget restrictions, no appointment was made to the vacant commissioner position.

Organization

A substantial realignment of responsibilities was completed this year with the transfer of crime prevention co-ordination and the contractual supervison of the Police Academy from the Commission to the office of the Assistant Deputy Minister for Police Services.

Personnel

In line with the above transfer of responsibility the two staff in crime prevention, Norm Brown and Gail Russell, were transferred to Police Services. A further reduction of staff occurred through the transfer of Stella Macfarlane to the Co-ordinated Law Enforcement Unit, Jeanne La Fleche to Police Services, and the expiration of the contract for services with Marilyn Johnson, in all a decrease of five staff.

One addition occurred with the transfer of W. Beamish from the Co-ordinated Law Enforcement Unit to the Commission to act as an Executive Officer in charge of Complaints.

Budget

The Commission's budget of $ 652,186 was reduced during the year by the Expenditure Reduction Program, which combined with the 50 percent reduction in staff and subsequent salary savings, totalled a 23.5 percent or $ 153,093 reduction in expenditures.

The B.C. Police Academy budget was also reduced with a total saving of $ 336,335 most of which was achieved through careful planning and the cutback of six instructors.

I am pleased to report however that staff at the Commission have successfully completed a wide range of assignments and progress has been made as noted in the body of this annual report in spite of severe staff and budget reductions. The B.C. Police Academy also responded positively and successfully completed an extensive training program within their limited budget and reduced instructional cadre.

INTRODUCTION

Role of the B.C. Police Commission

The B.C. Police Commission was established in 1974 by the B.C. Police Act. It consisted of three citizen commissioners, appointed for non-renewable five-year terms; two executive officers who were serving officers of independent Municipal and Royal Canadian Mounted Police forces in British Columbia, a research officer and a small office staff.

An advisory board to the Attorney General on policing matters, it was also charged with setting standards for policing and police training, improving communication and understanding between the police and the public, assisting Police Boards in independent municipalities, conducting research on matters affecting policing, issuing statistics, overseeing the police-citizen complaints process, serving as an appeal body in citizen complaint and internal police discipline proceedings and publishing the quarterly B.C. Police Journal. This role was later expanded to include the auditing of operations and management of the province's twelve independent municipal police forces and the hearing of appeals under the Private Investigators and Security Agencies Act.

The past year saw numerous changes in the Police Commission's activities. The auditing of independent municipal forces was increased. An executive officer with responsibility for complaints was added to the Commission's staff to aid and advise citizens wishing to have complaints against police processed. Regional visits to municipalities, for discussion of local issues with police and citizens, were conducted in cities and towns policed by the R.C.M.P.

However, with the expenditure reduced from $ 652,186 in 1981/82 to $ 497,093 in the 1982/83 fiscal year, there were also reductions in the Commission's activities. Staff was reduced at fiscal year end from 12 to 8. There are at present only two commissioners, Chairman M. Matheson and Mr. P. St. Pierre. Publication of the B.C. Police Journal ceased, seminars curtailed and travel limited.

A review of the Police Act was completed during the past fiscal year. Consideration continues to be given to the Police Commission's role in relation to the Ministry's executive role and responsibilities.

B.C. POLICE ACADEMY

As submitted by Robert J. Hull, Acting Director

1982/83 has been a year of satisfaction in many ways as we were able to reap the benefits of previous research, development and experimentation. Contentment of class members from basic recruit through to pre-retirement levels was evident and rang through very clear during this fiscal year.

The many changes throughout the year, particularly in the statutory areas, led to considerable research, preparation and delivery in our Recruit and Advanced Training Programs. In response to requests from management in the field, the Academy provided direct instruction in a number of subjects to officers at their departments. Field delivery seminars in Legal Studies were arranged to meet needs identified in promotional examinations.

Budgetary restraints saw us cut back our staff by 20 percent through attrition (6 instructor/co-ordinator positions). We are continuously restructuring the organization of the Academy to meet increasing demands in Advanced Programs with reduced staff. With careful planning and allocation of key personnel we managed to stay close to our students training day predictions and well within our adjusted budget guidelines. Our Academy complement at the moment is one of bare essentials. A "pilot light" concept is being maintained in most of the disciplines in order to ensure continuity in instruction delivery when recruit intake picks up momentum.

Recruit Training Programs

As previously anticipated, the intake of recruits for the initial Block Training decreased during the 1982/83 fiscal year. The double Block II and III, classes in the system at year end, along with two additional Block I starts, comprised the year's Basic Recruit Training Program. The return to the single classes proved very beneficial to the students through greater formal contact and thus also rewarding to the instructional staff. The upper level blocks of training continued at a hectic pace, with accommodation of the previous year's double class situation.

Recruit instructors filled what might be construed as "extra" time, due to recruit cutbacks, in a number of ways. They assisted in the development and co-ordination of Advanced Training courses and on-going video roll call training production. They worked with municipal forces to ensure departmental policies were consistent with legislative changes, in particular the Charter of Rights and Bill C-127. They responded to an increasing number of requests for advice in the preparation of cases and assistance in difficult accident reconstruction cases, and on several occasions have been called to give expert evidence in court.

Research has been conducted into such areas as powers of store detectives to search and jurisdiction of military police on and off military bases. They also assisted outside agencies, such as Probation Services in curriculum development of a Family Crisis Intervention package, particularly in relation to family law and child abduction provisions of the Criminal Code.

The level of training continues at a high standard with satisfaction apparent through all Blocks of training. The need for continuous change and up-dating is evident, as recruits return (many on their own time) to gain additional knowledge and information to enhance their own development and operational effectiveness.

Our student training day production in the Recruit Training Program was 12,872.

Advanced Training Program

During 1982, Advanced Programs continued to offer a full and maximum slate of courses. The cutback in recruit intakes coincided with an increased emphasis upon Advanced Training. The year saw changes in, and up-dating to, some of the existing programs, as well as the development of additional courses in response to identified client needs.

The Selection and Interviewing Workshop, which was offered three times during the year, was very timely as it coincided with promotional interviews being conducted in departments. The course was extremely well received by all participants.

The Advanced Driving Course was received with a jaundiced view by those who initially participated. However, any apprehensions or misconceptions were quickly dispelled by members attending the first two courses and it is now a high-demand operational course.

A new opportunity offered to the police community was the Evening Effective Presentation Program Members attended on their own time for two evenings a week over a three-week period. Content of the course was the same as that offered in the one-week program. All candidates successfully completed the course with a high standard of performance. Other similar courses are being researched for future presentations.

This section, in conjunction with Research and Development, is continually planning, researching and developing future courses to keep abreast of the the changing technological, sociological and statutory trends.

Research, Development and Assessment

The Research, Development and Assessment Section, formed in 1981, has become established in a role supportive of Recruit and Advanced programs in the development, co-ordination and evaluation of courses.

The section also provides significant consultation services to the police community in general research and personnel assessment, and assists outside organizations, particularly post secondary institutions, in police related programs.

An extensive task analysis conducted during the year at the constable level provided a basis to several recruit and advanced courses and examined the breadth of the constable role, the perceived competence of officers and the degree to which education effects police effectiveness.

Members of the section have prepared a constable and auxiliary police selection examination which is designed to assess the work related skills and abilities of the applicants. The management based promotional examinations developed by Academy staff are now widely used within the police community with 8 to 12 municipal departments using the service.

The Police Advanced Certificate of Education, comprised of a broad selection of courses available in post-secondary institutions, was introduced to encourage officers to undertake university study and to become more acquainted with the increasingly complex role of the police. The certificate offers three levels of study which become progressively more specialized and culminate in the presentation and oral defence of a dissertation. The program also offers a yardstick by which departments can judge the educational acumen of promotional candidates.

Budget constraints have necessitated a cutback to one person in the Assessment Centre. However, the assessment responsibilities of the section were utilized to maximum capacity with approximately 150 candidates being assessed at recruit and promotional levels. There was a considerable decline in the number of candidates over previous years as fewer recruit centres were conducted during 1982/83. The Assessment office continues to provide extensive training for assessors in personnel evaluation and is currently undertaking research to establish the validity of the assessment process and the feasibility of a system of peer appraisal.

To meet the demands of changing procedures and legislation in a cost effective way, a system of video roll call training was developed in conjunction with the R.C.M.P. The program involves the in-house production of short video tapes on topical police issues. The tapes are distributed to most municipal departmental and R.C.M.P. detachments and shown to officers during their parade for duty. The tapes, accompanied by handouts, provide a large number of officers with a source of current information in a uniform way. They incorporate innovative production techniques and cover topics as diverse as cold water rescue, high risk vehicle stops, and legal definitions.

The section continues to assist in the design, evaluation and restructuring of Academy courses.

CRIME STATISTICS

B.C. Totals

The 1982 Uniform Crime Reports for British Columbia showed a total of 377,959 Criminal Code offences (excluding drug and traffic C.C. offences), an increase of 8.7 percent over the 1981 total of 347,575. The B.C. crime rate (number of crimes per 1,000 population), based on a population figure of 2,783,200 was 135.8. The number of crimes in 1982 was 39.2 percent higher than in 1977, while the B.C. population increased 11.3 percent in that period, according to preliminary figures released by Statistics Canada.

Crimes against the Person

Collectively, Crimes against the Person - homicide and attempted murder, sexual offences, assaults, and robbery - increased 8.8 percent in volume during 1982 and represented 8.4 percent of Criminal Code offences. Homicide rose 26.1 percent (from 107 to 135); attempted murders, 17.7 (from 118 to 139); sexual offences, 15.2 (from 2,201 to 2,537); assaults, 5.2 (from 23,688 to 24,931); and robbery, 30.6 (from 3,099 to 4,050). The volume of crimes against the person increased 44.9 percent since 1977.

Crimes against Property

The property crimes of breaking and entering and theft, theft of motor vehicles, theft over $ 200 and under $ 200, possession of stolen property, and frauds, were up 9 percent in 1982, and represented 62.6 percent of Criminal Code offences. (Note: arson is not included in this figure.) B & E's and theft, i.e. burglary, increased 6.9 percent (from 53,573 to 57,311); motor vehicle thefts decreased 4 percent (from 13,573 to 13,017); theft over $ 200, 20.7 perce (from 39,999 to 48,284); theft under, 8 percent (from 89,280 to 96,425); possession of stolen property, 30.7 percent (from 2,771 to 3,624); and frauds decreased 3.5 percent (from 17,985 to 17,354).

In terms of volume, property crimes increased 42.3 percent over 1977.

Other Criminal Code Offences

In the category of Other Criminal Code Offences, prostitution was up 76.9 percent (from 26 to 46); gaming and betting was up 100 percent (from 26 to 52); offensive weapons was up 10.8 percent (from 2,484 to 2,754); and others (such as wilful damage, disturbing the peace, obstructing an officer, arson, and others) increased 8.0 percent (from 98,645 to 106,600).

B.C. CRIME CLOCK
1982

one
CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCE
every 1.5 minutes

one
VIOLENT CRIME
every 17 minutes

- one MURDER or ATTEMPT every 32 hours
- one SEXUAL OFFENCE every 3.5 hours
- one ASSAULT every 22 minutes
- one ROBBERY every 2 hours

one
PROPERTY CRIME
every 2.5 minutes

- one BURGLARY every 9.5 minutes
- one MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT every 41 minutes
- one THEFT (over & under $200) every 4 minutes
- one POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY every 2.5 hours
- one FRAUD every 30 minutes

one
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCE
every 5 minutes

NOTE: Criminal Code offence refers to total Criminal Code offences excluding drug and traffic. Violent crime refers to crimes against the person.

In aggregate, Other Criminal Code Offences increased 8.1 percent making up 26.8 percent of Criminal Code Offences.

Drug Offences

Drug Offences increased 3.1 percent in 1982, from 12,144 to 12,527. Cannabis (Marijuana) offences accounted for 77 percent of total drug offences.

Other Offences

Other Federal Statute offences totalled 4,992, an increase of 15.9 percent: Provincial Statute offences totalled 31,642, a decrease of 4.5 percent; Municipal offences totalled 20,141, an increase of 21.3 percent. The number recorded for State of Intoxication in a Public Place indicated a 3.4 percent increase in this category, from 47,431 in 1981 to 49,059 in 1982.

Grand Total

The Grand Total (total Criminal Code Offences plus Drug Offences, Other Federal Statute Offences, Provincial and Municipal Offences) increased 8 percent (from 413,791 in 1981 to 447,261 in 1982).

Clearance Rates

The Clearance Rate in 1982 from crimes against the person was 64.1 percent; for property crimes, 21 percent; for Other Criminal Code Offences, 31.7 percent, for total Criminal Code offences, 27.7 percent. The corresponding clearance rates for 1981 were 67.6 percent, 22.8 percent, 32.1 percent, and 29.3 percent respectively.

Persons Charged

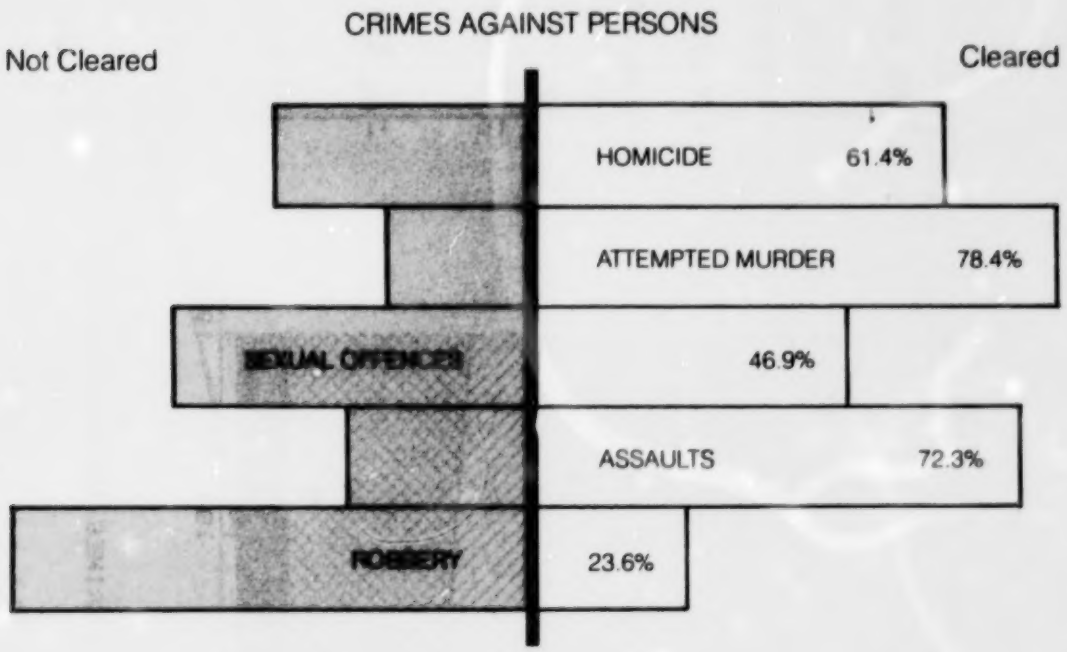
The number of adults charged for total Criminal Code offences was 45,452 (an increase of 1.1 percent); the number of adults charged in the 'grand total' was 61,842 (a decrease of 4.3 percent).

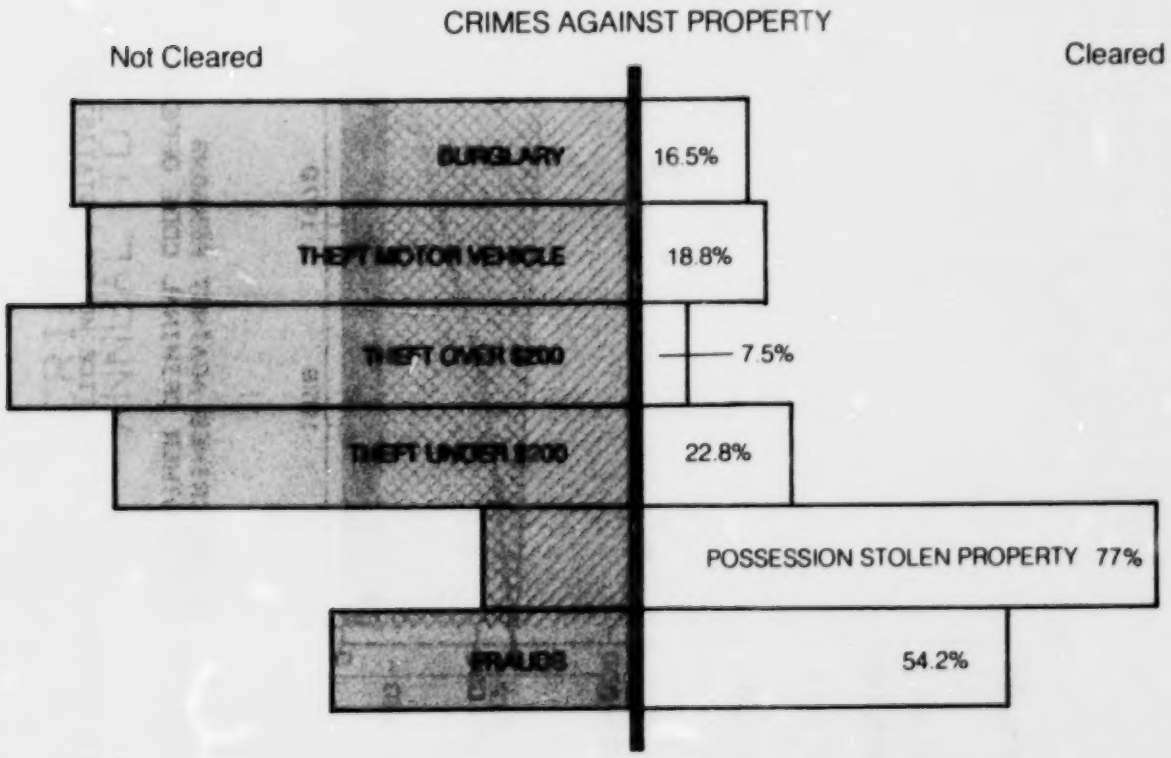
The number of juveniles charged for total Criminal Code offences was 10,805 (a decrease of 18.2 percent); the number of juveniles informally dealt with in this category was 7,249, down from 7,626 in 1981. The number of juveniles charged in the 'grand total' was 12,912 (a decrease of 20.8 percent); informally dealt with 8,778, down from the 1981 total of 9,405.

---

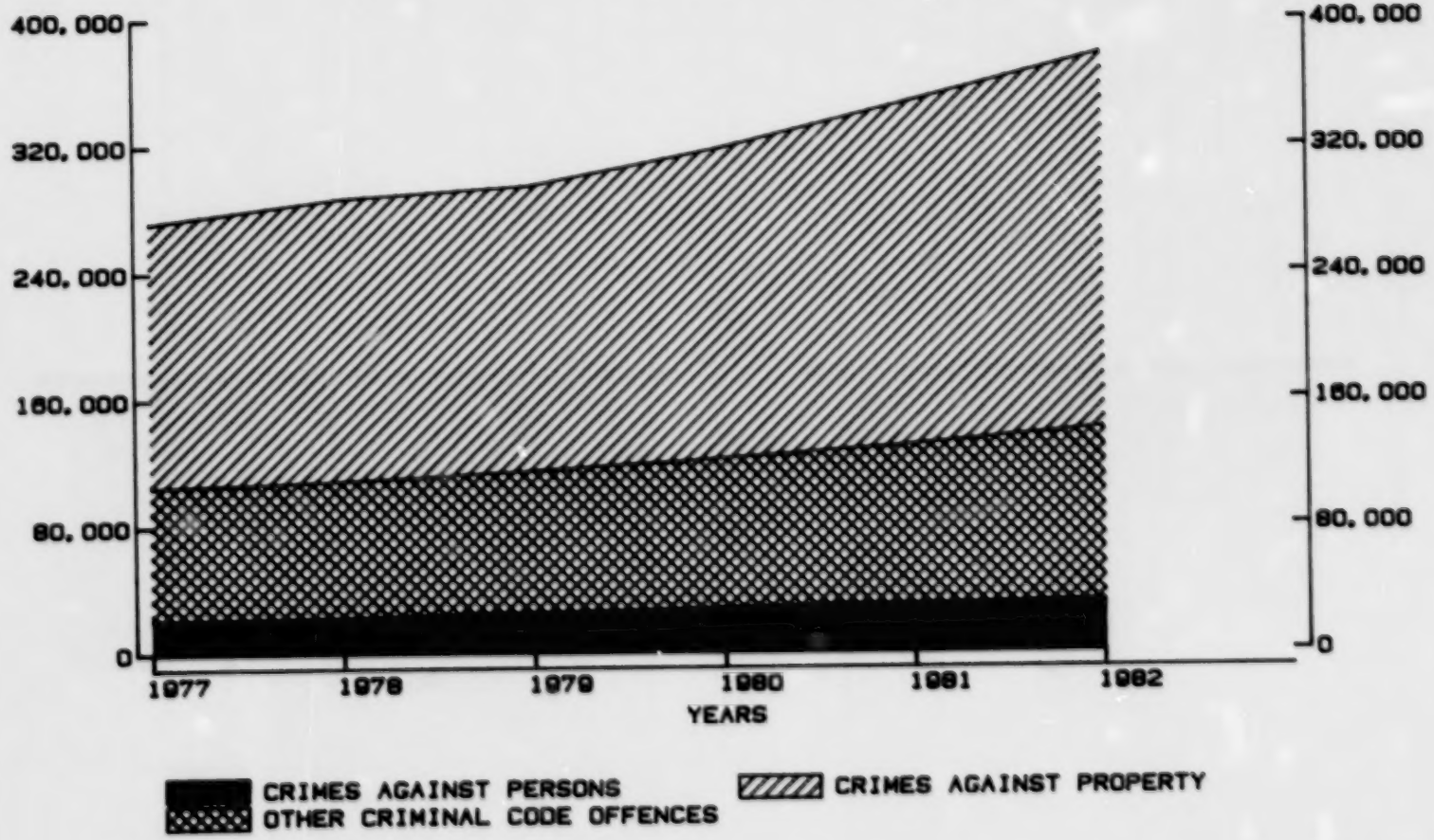
* Figures are taken for the first decimal place and may not total 100 percent.

B.C. CRIME CLEARANCE RATES 1982



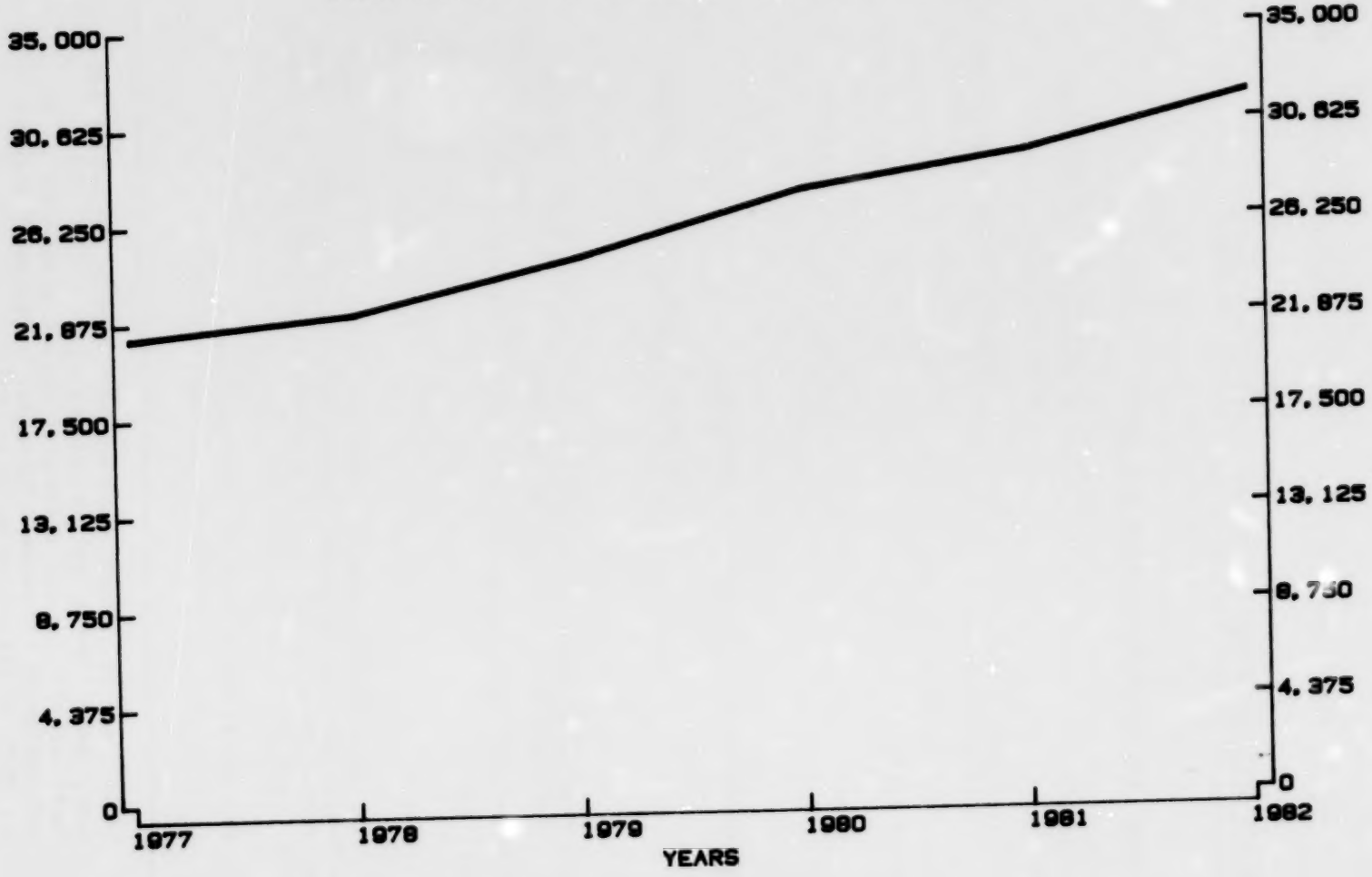


CRIME IN B. C.
ANNUAL TOTALS 1977-1982



DATA SOURCE: CRIMINAL JUSTICE MONTHLY STATISTICS - CRIME DATA

CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS
ANNUAL TOTALS 1977-1982



DATA SOURCE: CRIMINAL JUSTICE MONTHLY STATISTICS - CRIME DATA

POLICE STRENGTH AND COSTS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Manpower and Total Police Expenditures*

	Strength	Expenditures
RCMP		
Provincial Force	1487	$ 115,000,000
Municipal Forces	1832	110,700,000
Independent Municipal Forces	1687	89,975,877
Federal Police	721	27,300,000
Total.	5727	$ 342,975,877

Total Expenditures** by Level of Government

	Municipal $	Provincial $	Federal $
RCMP			
Provincial Force	---	57,000,000	58,000,000
Municipal Forces	85,400,000	---	25,300,000
Independent Municipal Forces	89,975,877	---	---
Federal Police	---	---	27,300,000
Total.	175,375,877	57,000,000	110,600,000

The above figures have been calculated according to the terms of a 10-year contract that came into effect on April 1, 1981. Costs of the RCMP in British Columbia were shared as follows (as per formula applying in fiscal year 1982/83):

Provincial Force : Provincial Government 57%
Federal Government 43%

---

* Since final adjustments have not been made by the publishing date, these figures are preliminary.

** These amounts include costs over and above contract costs.

N.B. Information on Independent Municipal Forces as of December 31, 1982, on RCMP as of March 31, 1983.

Municipal Forces: a) Municipalities greater than 15,000 population -
Municipal Government 82%
Federal Government 18%
b) Municipalities with population between 5,000 and 15,000 -
Municipal Government 57%
Federal Government 43%.

Costs for Federal Police were entirely paid for by the Federal Government and costs for Independent Municipal Forces entirely paid for by the Municipal Government.

INFORMATION SOURCE: Police Services Branch, Ministry of Attorney General.

POLICE STRENGTH STATISTICS[1]
1977 - 1982

	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	% Change over 1977
Federal (RCMP & H.Q. Admin.)	584	695	700	701	718	743	27.2
Provincial (RCMP)	1283	1331	1369	1397	1473	1486	15.8
Municipal (RCMP)	1542	1596	1625	1687	1754	1804	17.0
12 Independent Municipal	1584	1590	1611	1654	1684	1687	6.5
Total Police	4993	5212	5305	5439	5629	5720	14.6
Total Police excluding Federal	4409	4517	4605	4738	4911	4977	12.9

SOURCE: RCMP and Police Departments

1. Police strength figures represent authorized strength as of December 31, 1982.

CRIME PREVENTION

No funds were budgeted for crime prevention in 1982/83. The crime prevention co-ordination staff were transferred to the office of the Assistant Deputy Minister in charge of Police Services at the end of November 1982. During their stay at the Commission the Crime Prevention Co-ordinator and his secretary delivered information and sent existing literature on crime prevention to those concerned. The crime prevention newsletter was also produced and mailed to some 300 addresses.

Report on crime prevention will now be channelled through the office of the Assistant Deputy Minister in charge of Police Services in Vancouver.

TRAFFIC

Death, injury and all accidents in B.C. decreased markedly in 1982.

The following table shows some of the traffic data for 1981 and 1982.

	1982	1981	% Difference
Driving while impaired	25,265	25,355	-0.4
Traffic accidents	106,867	149,947	-28.7
Persons killed	567	821	-30.9
Persons injured	25,555	35,538	-28.1

There were 86 accidents in British Columbis in which fatalities occurred where the driver(s) had been drinking (a decrease of 57.6 percent from the 203 in 1981) and 5,971 non-fatal accidents where the driver(s) had been drinking, compared with 10,829 in 1981 (down 44.8 percent).

The significant decrease in motor-vehicle accidents involving drinking drivers has been realized during the period when the Attorney General's CounterAttack program was actively pursued.

Total C.C.

Traffic charges laid in 1982 were 28,013, an increase of 23.7 percent over the 22,649 recorded in 1981.

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS

British Columbia's public complaints system, enacted in 1975, provides for the right of any citizen to have a complaint against a police officer dealt with. A process of four stages is provided: the first, an attempt to resolve the matter informally, provided the complaint is not so serious that it is required to be dealt with immediately as a criminal investigation. Approximately 80 percent of citizen complaints are resolved informally. If informal resolution fails, there may be a formal request for police investigation, and, in some cases, a police disciplinary hearing. The complaining citizen has the right to carry his complaint beyond the police inquiry stage to citizen bodies, first the local Police Board and finally the B.C. Police Commission.

In 1981, a Supreme Court of Canada decision made uncertain the provincial authority regarding public complaints against members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Amendments to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act which envisage a joint federal-provincial complaints review system were introduced to Parliament but have not yet been debated or passed into law.

In the interim, the Attorney General and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have agreed upon a procedure to review investigation of complaints against RCMP members in British Columbia. This procedure provides that if, after the formal investigation has been completed by the RCMP, the complainant indicates in writing that he or she is not satisfied with the results of the RCMP, "E" Division Internal Investigation, the Commanding Officer, "E" Division, will forward to the Attorney General of British Columbia the complete file for review and recommendation. The file will include a full disclosure of the history of the complaint, the attempts to resolve it and the resulting action.

Should the Attorney General not agree with the investigation, he will refer it back to "E" Division Headquarters for clarification or further action.

The Commission, this year as previously, is concerned that the complaint provisions of the B.C. Police Act are not widely understood by the general public and that there may be insufficient public confidence in the system. Another concern is that the Act does not provide any effective method of screening trivial and vexatious complaints from the system, and this sometimes results in unneccesary investigations, the cost of which is passed along to the taxpayers who pay for the police officer. Amendments to the B.C. Police Act

relative to citizen complaints are expected to be presented to the British Columbia Legislature this year.

While awaiting these amendments, to which the Commission has offered its own recommendations, the B.C. Police Commission has established a new position of Executive Officer responsible for Complaints. This Executive Officer is available to assist and advise citizens who feel they have cause for complaint against individual police officers but are uninformed or uncertain as to how they may proceed.

Complaints against the Police

In 1982, there were 1,072 complaints registered against the conduct of municipal police and RCMP members. This was an increase of 196 or 22% over the 876 registered in 1981. There were 746 complaints against RCMP members compared with 579 in 1981, and 326 against members of municipal forces compared with 297 in 1981.

As a result of the investigation of complaint allegations, municipal police boards received six requests for police enquiries and from there, the B.C. Police Commission received two requests for leave to appeal police board decisions. It is important to note that the number of complaints registered and the number substantiated after investigation may differ significantly. For example, of the 746 complaints against RCMP members, 400 were determined to be unfounded, 187 were unsubstantiated and 159 or 21 percent of the total were substantiated by investigators.

The incidence of complaints against the police is very small when compared to the number and nature of contacts between the police and the public. In 1982, it is estimated that the police had 1.5 million contacts with the public for criminal offences and provincial statute matters alone. In addition, they are in daily contact with members of the public for a wide range of unrecorded activities such as providing assistance and information to individuals; attending domestic disputes; investigating suspicious circumstances or activities and others, and it is important that although complaints against the police should not be minimized or considered trifling matters, they should be viewed as representative of less than one tenth of one percent of recorded police contacts with the public in British Columbia.

An example of the recorded police contacts with the public is as follows:

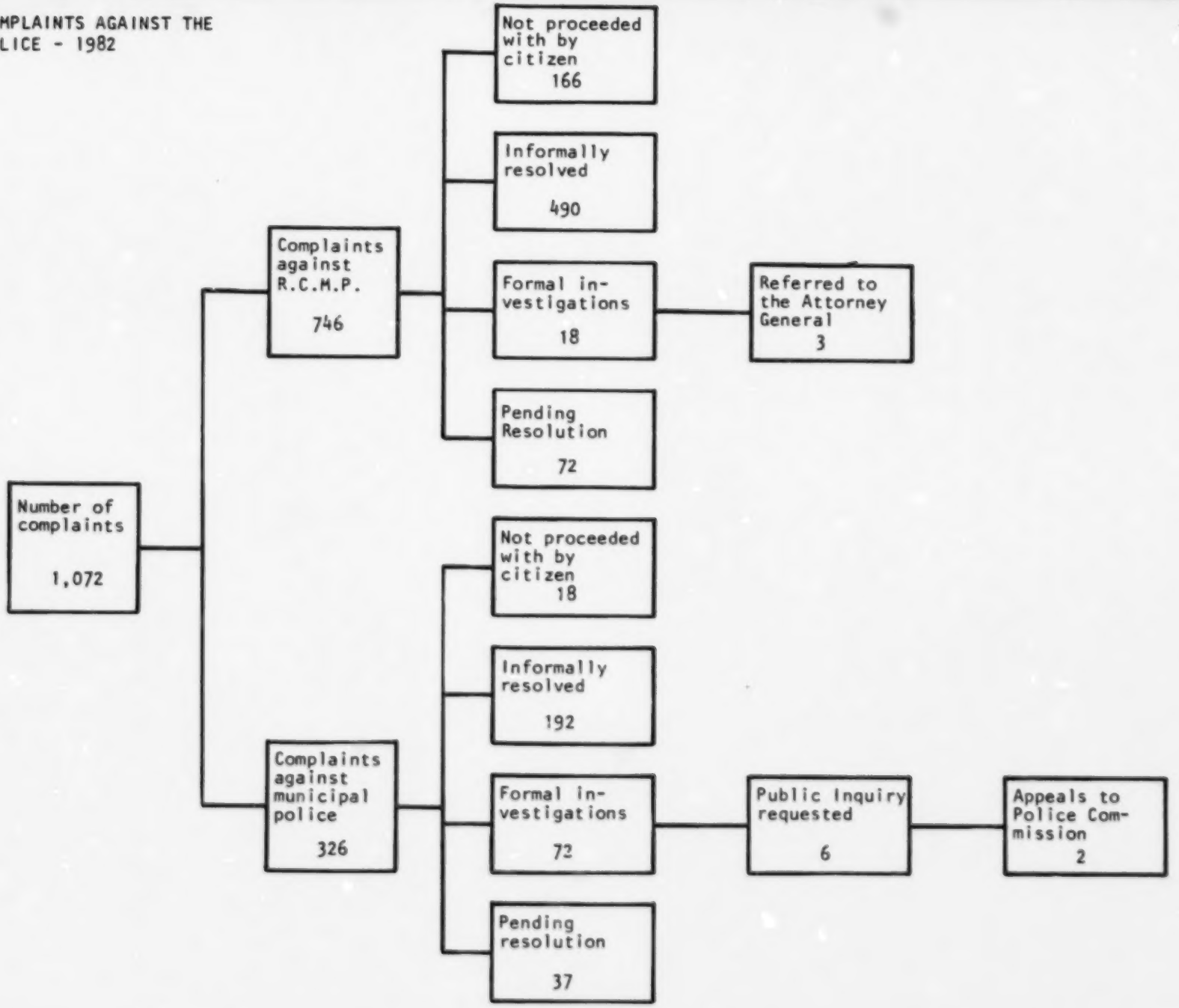
1982

TRAFFIC

Traffic offences	805,508
Written warnings	83,412
Suspensions	18,466
Accidents	101,486
Total Criminal Code offences (other than traffic) including drug offences	432,805
Total	1,441,677

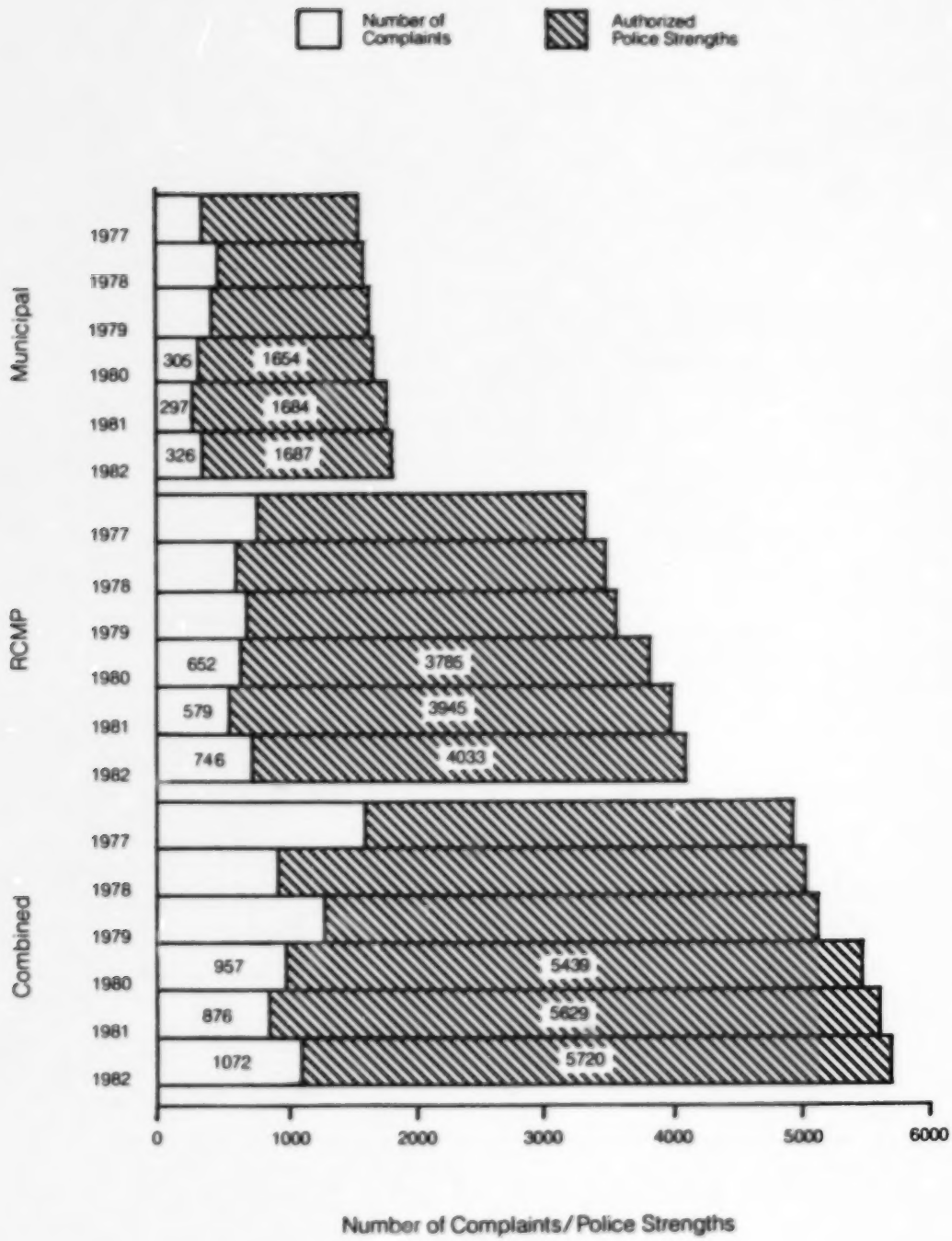
SOURCE: Criminal Justice Monthly Report, B.C. - December 1982

COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE - 1982



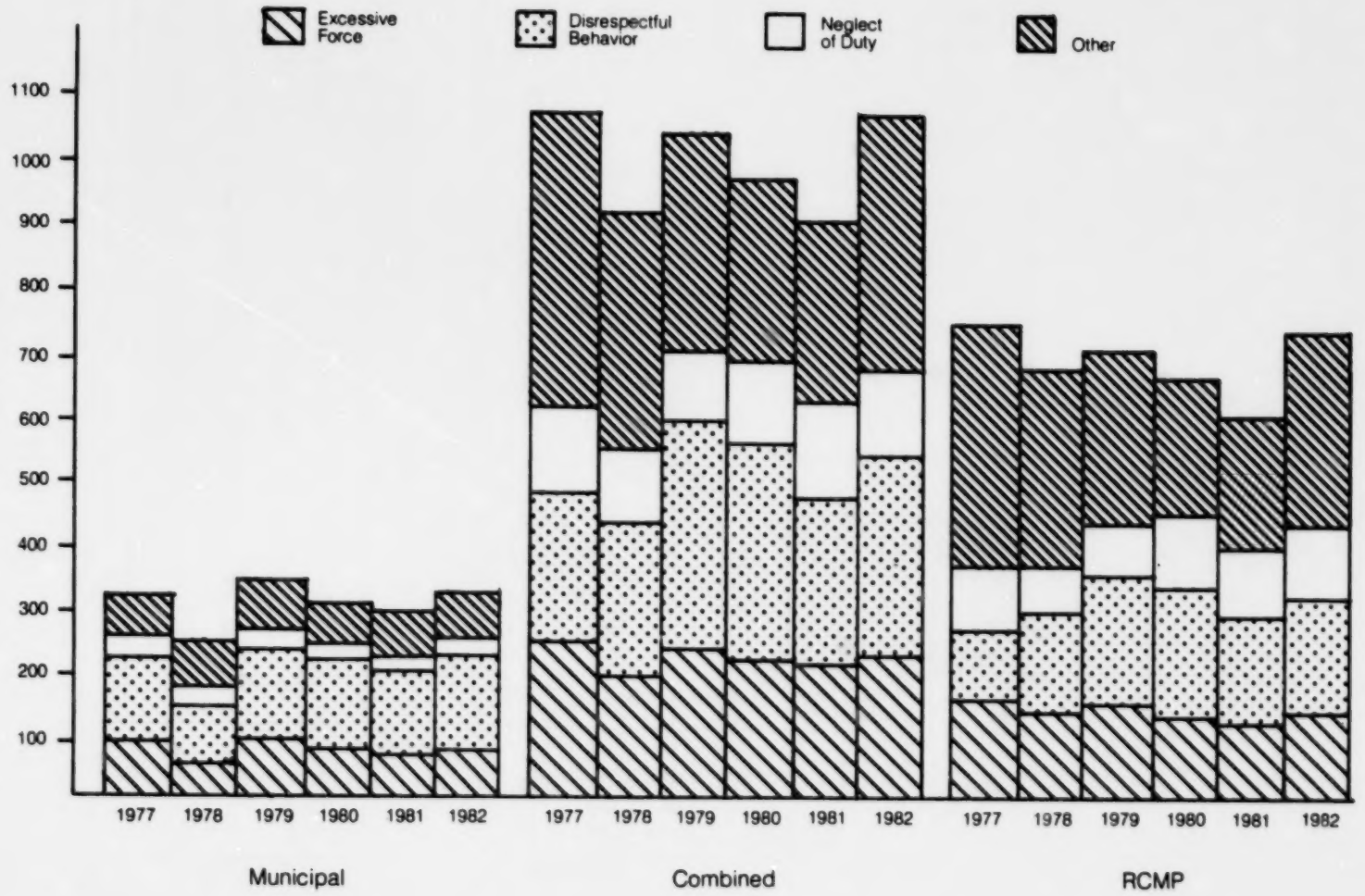
TOTAL NUMBER OF CITIZEN COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE TO TOTAL STRENGTH OF FORCE

MUNICIPAL, COMBINED, AND RCMP
1977-1982



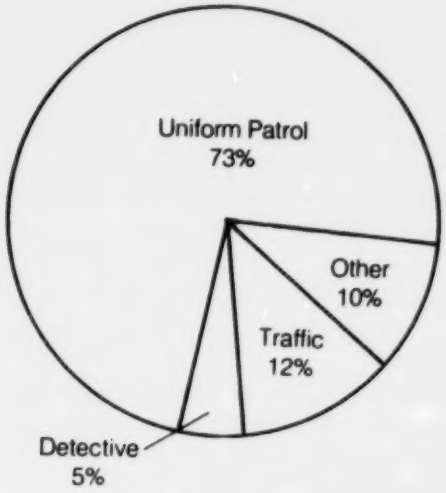
TOTAL NUMBER OF CITIZEN COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE BY TYPE OF COMPLAINT

MUNICIPAL, COMBINED, AND RCMP
1977-1982



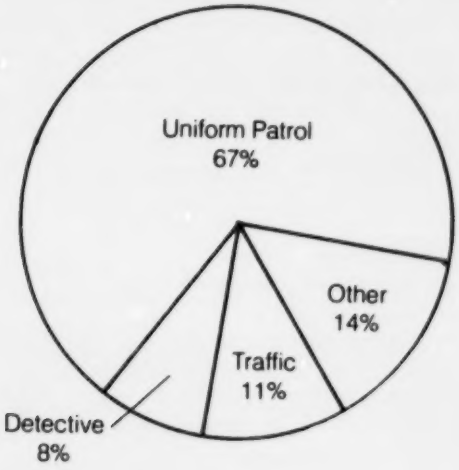
NUMBER AND TYPES OF POLICE INVOLVED IN CITIZEN COMPLAINTS

MUNICIPAL, RCMP, AND COMBINED
1982



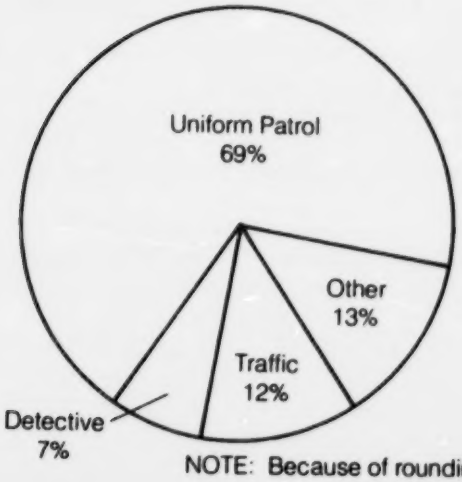
MUNICIPAL

N = 410



RCMP

N = 879



COMBINED

N = 1289

NOTE: Because of rounding, percentages may not always equal 100%

OTHER B.C. POLICE COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

Regional Visits

Regional visits to interior cities and towns policed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were made during the fiscal year to Prince George, Vanderhoof, Fraser Lake, Burns Lake, Smithers, Heffley Creek, Valemont, Clearwater and Lillooet.

Uniform Crime Reporting

In response to concerns expressed by the B.C. Association of Chiefs of Police, the B.C. Police Commission undertook the regular auditing of crime reporting several years ago. Uniform Crime Reporting, as the system is called, ensures that statistics concerning crime rates, clearance rates and police caseloads are directly comparable from one department to another.

All independent municipal police departments are audited once a year.

In the past fiscal year, the audits were conducted on the following schedule:

1982	July 13-15	Victoria Police Department
	July 20-22	New Westminster Police Department
	August 17-19	Matsqui Police Department
	October 25	Oak Bay Police Department
	October 26	Central Saanich Police Department
	October 27	Esquimalt Police Department
	December 7-8	West Vancouver Police Department
	December 14-16	Delta Police Department
1983	January 18	Esquimalt Police Department - follow-up visitation
	February 7-11	Vancouver Police Department
	February 16-17	Nelson Police Department
	March 2-3	Saanich Police Department

Port Moody Police Department was audited on February 22, 1982.

Section 5 Audits

Section 5, subsection 3 of the Police Act authorizes the B.C. Police Commission to inspect the records, operations and systems of administration of independent municipal police forces in British Columbia. The objective is to find whether a department discharges its responsibilities effectively, whether the community is receiving an adequate level of police service and whether the training, development and general supervision of police personnel is satisfactory.

In conducting these audits, the Commission staff is augmented by personnnel seconded from municipal departments. This is considered particularly desirable since it results in an exchange of information and ideas in departments not being subject to audit at the time.

Four departments were audited in the past fiscal year:

Port Moody	April 20-30, 1982
Matsqui	September 7-17, 1982
New Westminster	November 25-26, 1982
Oak Bay	March 14-18, 1983.

Audit reports so far produced numerous recommendations, usually organizational in nature. No serious deficiencies in police departments were reported by auditors. Individual police boards in the communities concerned have made public the full reports.

Appeals heard by B.C. Police Commission

Police Act, 1979, RS Chapter 331

Citizen Complaints Appeals heard:	0
Police Disciplinary Appeals heard:	0

Private Investigators and Security Agencies Act, 1980, SBC Chapter 45, Index Chapter 337.1

Appeals heard:	4

Improvement of Performance Evaluation Form

The B.C. Police Commission developed and made available for use in Independent Municipal Departments an improved method of evaluating the performance of individual police officers each year.

Improvement of Police Efficiency

As an informational service to police boards and police departments, the B.C. Police Commission last year examined and reported upon a system of collecting fines for minor traffic offences at licence issuance time. The program, already adopted in Ontario, would require motorists to clear their record of unpaid fines before obtaining their annual car licences.

While precise figures on failure to pay parking and traffic offence fines is not available, it is recorded that about half of the time the payment of fines for all offences are in arrears and warrants of committal are issued for about a third of all time payment fines. This indicates heavy loss of revenue in respect to parking offences, many of which are foregone because the expenses of collecting from scofflaws is greater than the amount owing.

Encouragement of Public Support for Police

Twelve independent and Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers were honoured for outstanding service at the Police Honours Night dinner held in Victoria, on January 30, 1982. Speaker was the Honourable Robert Kaplan, Solicitor General of Canada. Letters of appreciation, signed by the Premier, were presented to the police officers by Attorney General Allan Williams. The event, originally planned as an annual affair, has had to be cancelled due to budgetary restraints.

Meetings were held during the year with various ethnic minority groups.

Levels of Police Service

A survey was conducted, the information was collated and distributed to police communities.

Victims Services

Some research of this important questions was undertaken during the year.

Citizen Complaints Monitoring

There was continued monitoring of the citizen complaints against police and, in each Section 5 audit, the examination of complaint files was part of the process.

Deaths in Police Lockups

A survey was conducted on the Deaths in Police Lockups for the year 1982 and the summary of reports from various police agencies having lockup facilities is noted below:

Total number of deaths. 10

Male	10
Female	0
Adult	9
Juvenile	1
Accidental	2
Suicidal	5
Natural	3

Method (suicidal):

- using own socks	2
- seambinding from jacket	1
- strips taken from blanket	1
- asphyxiated after overdose of alcohol and drugs	1

Video monitoring capabilities where deaths occurred:

Yes	2
No	8

Time lapse from last check by guard/matron:

5 minutes or less	1
6/10 minutes	0
11/15 minutes	3
16/20 minutes	2
21/30 minutes	4

High Speed Police Pursuits

A special survey of high speed police pursuits was conducted during the period January to June 1982. The results are as follows:

a)	Number of pursuits	289
b)	Number of pursuits abandoned	58
c)	Number of pursuits resulting in death: 1) police	0
	2) civilian	2
d)	Number of pursuits resulting in injury: 1) police	12
	2) civilian	24
e)	Number of pursuits resulting in property damage: 1) police	40
	2) civilian	74
f)	Number of persons killed: 1) police	0
	2) civilian	2
g)	Number of persons injured: 1) police	12
	2) civilian	35
h)	Amount of property damage: 1) police	$ 54,602*
	2) civilian	$ 154,100*
i)	Charges laid (specific act and action): CC + Federal	224*
	Provincial	110*
j)	Number of pursuits involving the use of firearms	5
k)	Reasons for commencing pursuit - stolen MV	36
	C.C.	25
	C.C. (Traffic)	29
	M.V. Act	192
	Other	7
	Total k).	289

Police Use of Firearms

The B.C. Police Commission is required, under the Police Act, to

---

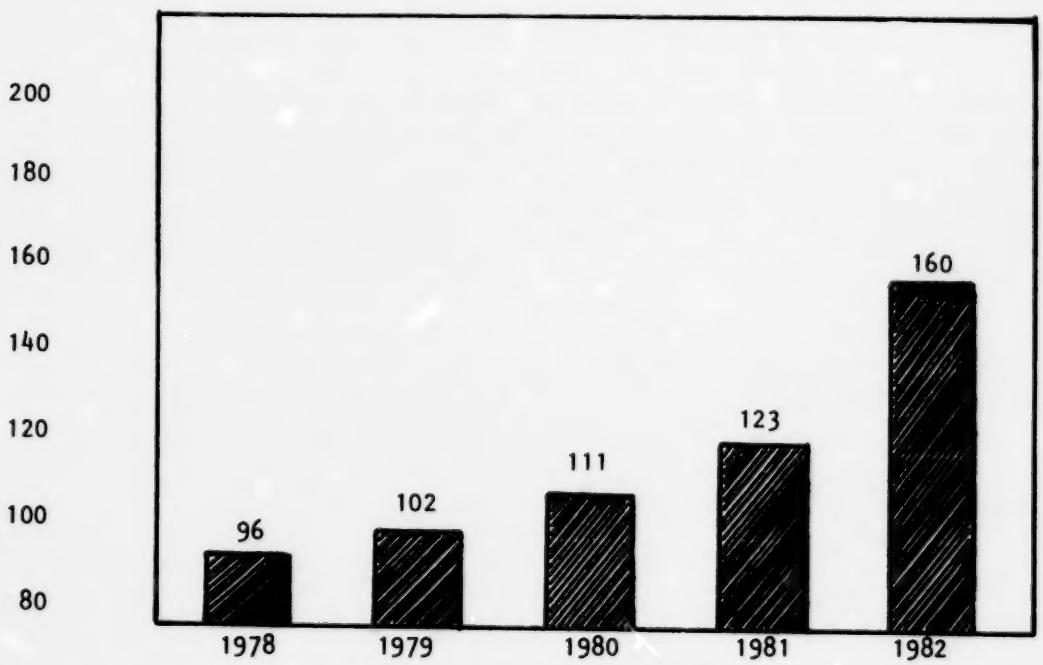
* Figures incomplete due to change in reporting format (RCMP format did not require amount of damage and number and type of charges during early months of survey).

receive a report on the number of shots fired by police officers on duty. In 1981, there was a total of 123 shots fired by 67 police officers. In 1982, 160 shots were fired by 77 police officers. Eighty shots were fired by 34 members of municipal police departments; 80 shots were fired by 43 members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Revolvers accounted for 117 of the shots fired in 1982; shotguns accounted for 23; rifles accounted for 20. One hundred and fifty-five of the shots fired were fired intentionally, while 5 were fired unintentionally. Two persons were killed; 7 persons were injured; 9 animals were killed. Property damage totalled approximately $ 21,125.

The B.C. Police Act Firearms Regulations govern the type of firearms, ammunition, and their use by police officers. Each incident of firearms use must be reported to the B.C. Police Commission in a prescribed manner.

The following is a comparison of shots fired from the year 1978 to the year 1982 (a five-year span):



B.C. Police Journal

The B.C. Police Journal, since cancelled due to budgetary restraints, appeared during the fiscal year 1982/83. The Journal has proven to be a great tool for the police community to share information, to improve the morale of the people it served and especially because it created a good exchange between the various policing groups in British Columbia.

The Journal was sent also out of the province and at times out of the country. Its publication was strongly supported by the police community which it was designed to serve.

Conferences Attended

The B.C. Police Commission was represented at the annual Provincial Police Commission Symposium held in Winnipeg, Manitoba on September 19 to 22, 1982 by Acting Chairman G.L. Dalton. The 1982 Symposium was sponsored by the Manitoba Police Commission.

The symposia are an excellent forum for police commissions to exchange ideas and opinions, to discuss problems and concerns of a general nature and to tackle issues relating to police. In addition, the symposia give police commission members an opportunity to meet at least once a year.

Commissioner Paul St. Pierre represented the Commission at the Washington State Chiefs and Sheriffs Association Conference, held in Spokane, Washington, on May 19 and 20, 1982.

Police Board Workshop

A Police Board Workshop was conducted in Vancouver where guest speaker was Chief Patrick Fitzsimons of the Seattle Police Department. The Workshop was held on June 12, 1982.

Police Board Workshops have been organized by the Commission on a yearly basis to give police board members an opportunity to meet to learn about their role and to share information.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1982/83

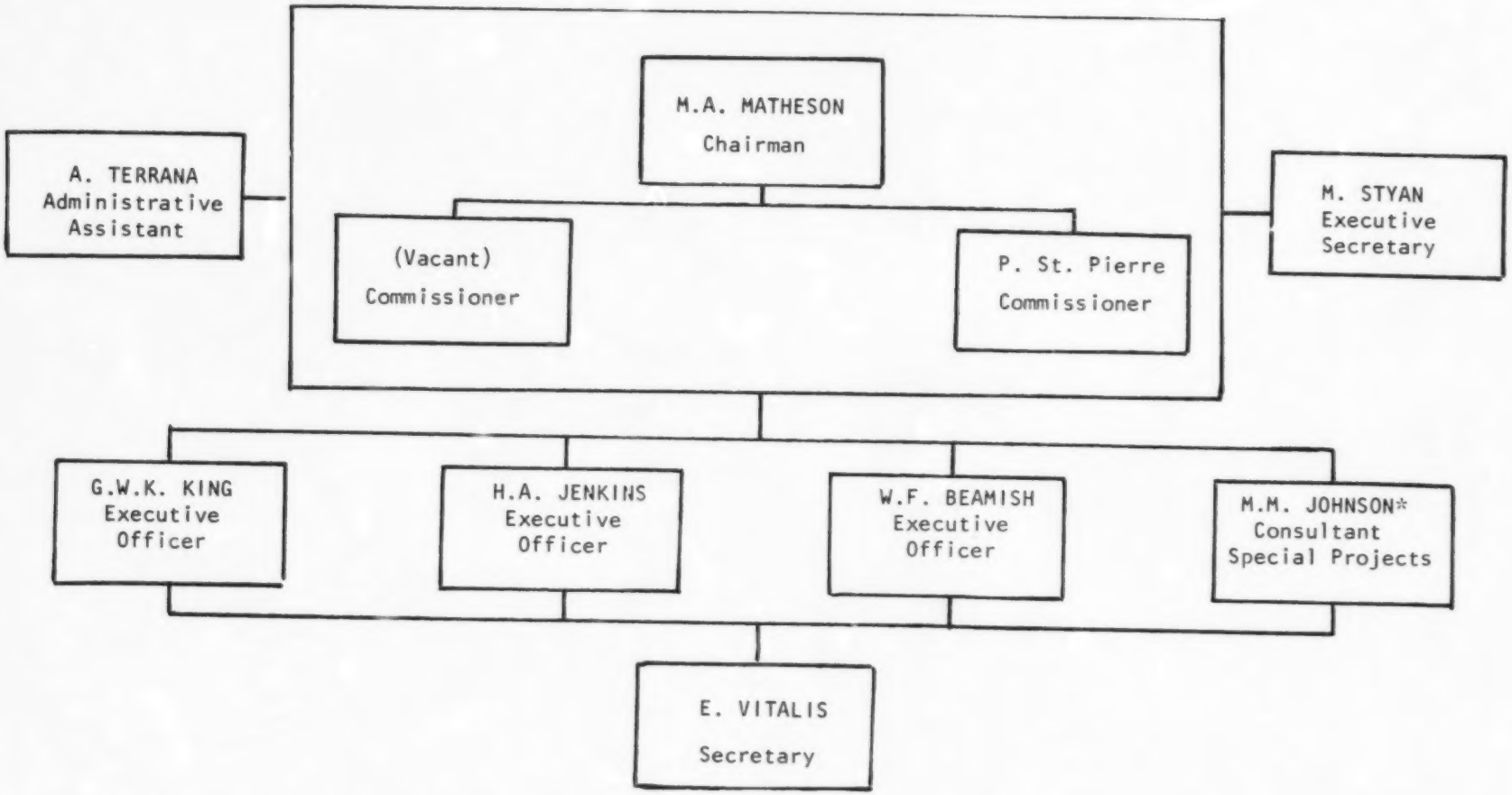
Acc.No.	Account Name	Original Allocation	Actual Expenditures	Balance
01	Salaries - Established	$ 279,998	$ 218,140	$ 61,858
04	Salaries - Temporary	40,419	42,427	(-2,008)
10	Travel	43,000	36,752	6,248
20	Professional and Special Services	2,143,133*	1,765,319**	377,814
25	Data Systems and Processing	1,000	20	980
30	Office Expense	32,500	20,786	11,714
35	Office Furniture and Equipment	2,000	0	2,000
40	Advertising and Publication	39,500	22,841	16,659
50	Materials and Supplies	4,750	4,905	(- 155)
55	Motor Vehicles	8,000	0	8,000
80	Grants, Contributions, Subsidies	8,000	5,000	3,000
90	Other Expenditure	10,000	6,682	3,318
	TOTAL.	$2,612,300	$2,122,872	$ 489,428

* Inclusive of $ 1,960,114 for B.C. Police Academy
** Inclusive of $ 1,623,779 spent by B.C. Police Academy

NOTE: The B.C. Police Commission and Academy were requested to cut $ 500,000 from their original 1982/83 budget. In a concerted effort, the Commission and the Academy have curtailed spending and have saved on programs and services a total amount of $ 489,428.

BRITISH COLUMBIA POLICE COMMISSION

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



* M.M. Johnson's position was discontinued on March 31, 1983

NOTE: The above organizational chart reflects the structure of the B.C. Police Commission on March 31, 1983. During the year several positions were transferred.

Appendix

B.C. MUNICIPAL CRIME TREND COMPARISONS

Municipality	Population[1] 1982	No. of Crimes[2] 1981	1982	% Change	Crime Rate[3] 1982	Police Strength (Actual)	Pop.[5] Police Ratio	Caseload per Member
* Vancouver	416,290	61,664	69,551	12.8	167	973	428	71.5
Surrey	152,772	18,925	21,047	11.2	138	211	724	99.7
Burnaby	137,032	16,026	19,581	22.2	143	199	689	98.4
Richmond	97,592	10,087	11,229	11.3	115	119	820	94.4
* Saanich	78,813	4,931	5,628	14.1	71	111	710	50.7
* Delta	75,042	6,994	7,248	3.6	97	121	620	59.9
Prince George	80,111	11,046	10,996	-0.5	137	109	735	100.9
North Vancouver District	65,200	5,752	5,523	-4.0	85	68	959	81.2
Kamloops	64,502	10,428	10,763	3.2	167	96	672	112.1
* Victoria	64,045	11,854	13,402	13.0	209	151	424	88.8
Coquitlam	61,065	5,863	7,134	21.7	117	66	925	108.1
Kelowna	59,879	8,632	9,562	10.8	160	68	881	140.6
Nanaimo	49,284	8,267	8,267	0	168	69	714	119.8

1. Population figures are from the 1982 Criminal Justice Monthly Report - Police/Crime Ratios
2. "Crimes" means "Criminal Code Offences" excluding Drug offences and Traffic C.C. offences.
3. "Crime Rate" means number of Criminal Code offences per 1000 population.
4. Number of sworn members as of December 31, 1982.
5. Population divided by police strength.

* Municipalities with independent police departments; all others listed have municipal contracts with the RCMP.

Municipality	Population[1] 1982	No. of Crimes[2] 1981	1982	% Change	Crime Rate[3] 1982	Police Strength (Actual)	Pop.[5] Police Ratio	Caseload per Member
Langley Twsp.	47,105	3,499	3,006	-14.1	64	52	906	57.8
* Matsqui	44,619	4,566	4,605	0.9	103	59	756	78.0
Chilliwack	41,769	5,598	6,045	8.0	145	52	803	116.2
* New Westminster	38,230	6,414	7,612	18.7	199	94	406	81.0
* West Vancouver	36,502	3,143	3,866	23.0	106	64	570	60.4
North Vancouver City	34,483	5,099	5,169	1.4	150	48	718	107.7
Maple Ridge	32,415	4,181	4,459	6.7	138	47	690	94.9
Port Coquitlam	27,432	3,075	3,161	2.8	115	32	857	98.8
Penticton	23,664	4,084	4,301	5.3	182	26	910	165.4
Mission	20,192	2,772	2,976	7.4	147	26	777	114.5
Vernon	20,433	4,434	4,672	5.4	229	29	705	161.1
Port Alberni	19,745	3,070	3,649	18.9	185	28	705	130.3
* Oak Bay	16,806	976	1,016	4.1	60	24	700	42.3
Prince Rupert	16,476	4,116	3,864	-6.1	235	31	531	124.6
Cranbrook	16,363	2,512	2,796	11.3	171	24	682	116.5
Campbell River	16,337	3,463	3,823	10.4	234	27	605	141.6
* Esquimalt[6]	15,958	1,673	2,217	32.5	139	26	614	85.3
* Port Moody	14,876	1,504	1,674	11.3	113	28	531	59.8
Fort St. John	14,062	2,910	2,637	-9.4	188	24	586	109.9

6. Esquimalt force has a total strength of 43 members, with 26 members assigned to police duties and 17 members assigned to fire duties.

Municipality	Population[1] 1982	No. of Crimes[2] 1981	1982	% Change	Crime Rate[3] 1982	Police Strength (Actual)	Pop.[5] Police Ratio	Caseload per Member
Langley City	13,885	2,608	2,367	-9.2	171	29	479	81.6
White Rock	13,659	1,634	1,743	6.7	128	19	719	91.7
Powell River	13,464	1,556	1,523	-2.1	113	18	748	84.6
Abbotsford	13,387	1,630	2,027	24.3	152	17	787	119.2
Kitimat	13,316	1,977	1,555	-21.3	117	17	783	91.5
Dawson Creek	11,453	2,687	2,975	10.7	260	17	674	175.0
Terrace	11,120	2,505	2,273	-9.3	204	19	585	119.6
Salmon Arm	11,255	1,482	1,668	12.6	148	12	938	139.0
* Central Saanich	11,043	858	911	6.1	83	13	849	70.1
North Cowichan	11,000	1,725	1,345	-22.0	122	11	1,000	122.3
Squamish	10,472	1,356	1,479	9.1	141	15	698	98.6
Williams Lake	9,678	2,247	2,441	8.6	252	14	691	174.4
Courtenay	9,564	1,640	2,061	25.7	216	14	683	147.2
Trail	9,406	1,112	1,135	2.1	121	16	588	70.9
* Nelson	9,261	1,318	1,189	-9.8	128	16	579	74.3
Quesnel	8,715	1,884	1,757	-6.7	202	15	581	117.1
Sidney	8,106	798	944	18.3	117	11	737	85.8
Summerland	7,632	527	442	-16.1	58	6	1,272	73.7
Kimberlery	7,476	654	843	28.9	113	8	935	105.4
Castlegar	6,882	1,057	931	-11.9	135	10	688	93.1
Comox	6,658	648	703	8.5	106	7	951	100.4
Merritt	6,069	1,022	1,018	-0.4	168	9	674	113.1

Municipality	Population[1] 1982	No. of Crimes[2] 1981	1982	% Change	Crime Rate[3] 1982	Police Strength (Actual)	Pop.[5] Police Ratio	Caseload per Member
Mackenzie	5,916	770	722	-6.2	122	8	740	90.2
Chemainus	5,800	--	778	--	134	9	644	86.4
Totals	2,134,311	281,253	306,309	8.9	144	3,432	622	89.3
Totals (including Rural)	2,783,453	347,575	377,959	8.7	136	4,491	620	84.2

SOURCE: Data Services, Ministry of Attorney General

Queen's Printer for British Columbia © Victoria, 1983

M50-285